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SUBJECT: JOURNALIST WINS COURT CASE ON FREEDOM OF  
INFORMATION

¶1. The head of Armenia's independent Asparez Press Club won a freedom of information case against several village mayors in the Shirak region on February 23. The mayors had denied press club director Levon Barseghyan's requests for copies of the village budgets. The court ruled that the mayors had to provide Barseghyan with the information, and fined them each 24,000 AMD (about 69 USD).

¶2. Shushan Doydoyan, head of the USG-funded Freedom of Information Center of Armenia (FOICA), whose attorney represented Barseghyan in court, told us that the center was winning most of its cases. Doydoyan said that, particularly on the lower government level, courts were ruling in FOICA's favor. She said the ministries by and large were complying with FOI requests, eliminating the need for litigation.  
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